

Amendments To The Claims

1. (currently amended) A balloon catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a guiding wire lumen with a distal end, with an inflatable balloon disposed on the distal end, and a proximal end with coupled to a connecting piece, a guiding wire lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, and an inflation lumen extending from the connecting piece to the inflatable balloon,

wherein the guiding wire lumen comprises a pipe having proximal and distal portions disposed substantially concentrically within the catheter shaft, the proximal portion comprises a more rigid material than the distal portion, and the inflation lumen is defined by an annulus between an exterior of the pipe and an interior surface of the catheter shaft

~~a guiding wire disposed in the guiding wire lumen of the catheter shaft from the proximal end to the distal end and through the balloon; and~~

~~an inflation/deflation lumen extending from the proximal end of the catheter shaft to the balloon that a portion of the catheter shaft having a selectable length and extending from the proximal end is provided with at least one reinforcing pipe.~~

2.-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 1, wherein the ~~reinforcing pipe is made of metal, in particular stainless steel.~~proximal portion comprises a metallic material and the distal portion comprises a plastic.

5. (currently amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 1, wherein a transitional portion between the ~~reinforcing pipe and a second catheter shaft portion is~~ proximal and distal portions is provided with a kink protection.

6. (currently amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 5, wherein the kink protection comprises ~~is formed as a ease-sleeve encasing arranged on the catheter shaft and exceeding the~~ transitional portion.

7. (currently amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 5, wherein the kink protection comprises ~~is formed as a~~ metal spring ~~bridging the transitional portion in the wall of the catheter shaft.~~

8. (previously presented) The balloon catheter shaft according to claim 5, wherein the kink protection is formed as a metal spring arranged in the inflation/deflation lumen.

9.-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The balloon catheter according to claim 4, wherein the ~~metal reinforcing proximal portion pipe~~ is provided with an ~~inner~~ lubricity-enhancing coating made of plastics.

14.-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A balloon catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a distal end including an inflatable balloon and a proximal end coupled to a connecting piece, the catheter shaft comprising a pipe having proximal and distal portions and a solid cross-section except for first and second longitudinally-extending boreholes,

wherein the first and second boreholes extend from the proximal end to the distal end, the first borehole defining a guiding wire lumen and the second borehole defining an inflation lumen that couples the connecting piece to the inflatable balloon, the proximal portion comprising a material having a greater rigidity than the distal portion.

22. (new) The balloon catheter of claim 21, wherein the proximal portion comprises a metallic material and the distal portion comprises a plastic.

23. (new) The balloon catheter of claim 21, wherein at least the first borehole in the proximal portion includes a lubricity-enhancing coating.

24. (new) A balloon catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a distal end including an inflatable balloon and a proximal end coupled to a connecting piece, the catheter shaft comprising a pipe having proximal and distal portions and a solid cross-section except for first and a second longitudinally-extending boreholes,

wherein the first and second boreholes extend from the proximal end to the distal end, the first borehole defining a guiding wire lumen and the second borehole defining an inflation lumen that couples the connecting piece to the inflatable balloon.

25. (new) The balloon catheter of claim 24, wherein the pipe comprises a metallic material.

26. (new) The balloon catheter according to claim 24, wherein at least the first longitudinal borehole includes a lubricity-enhancing coating.